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JOB SERVICE

Washington State
Employment Security Department
John Spellman, Governor
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in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics
and the Employment and
Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Washington Labor Market

Volume 7, Number 6 June 1983

HIGHLIGHTS

Labor market conditions continued to improve between April and May. Total employment advanced 14,800 over the month as economic recovery augmented seasonal growth. Total unemployment fell from 230,500 and 11.4 percent of the labor force in April to 229,200 and 11.2 percent in May. Although unemployment remains excessive, the state's economy has improved over the past 12 months. Between May 1982 and May 1983, total employment advanced 22,700, while total unemployment declined 14,100. The jobless rate was 12.0 percent in May 1982 versus 11.2 percent this May.

Approximately one-half of the job gain between April and May was in agriculture, while nonfarm wage and salary employment rose 4,900. A number of labor disputes in durable goods manufacturing and further layoffs in aerospace limited the expansion. The labor disputes were settled by mid-June, but 1,400 manufacturing workers were involved in May. Aerospace employment was cut an additional 1,200 in May.

	May 1983*	Apr. 1983*	May 1982
Civilian Labor Force	2,041,200	2,027,700	2,032,600
Employment	1,812,000	1,797,200	1,789,300
Unemployment	229,200	230,500	243,300
State Rate	11.2	11.4	12.0
National Civilian Rate	9.8	10.0	9.1

*These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable with data released in previous years than are official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

On the positive side, employment expanded in lumber-wood products, food products, aluminum and chemicals. Major gains in the nonmanufacturing industries occurred in construction, government and retail trade.

Nonagricultural employment was up 3,200 between May 1982 and 1983. The largest over-the-year gains were credited to services (up 9,400), retail trade (up 7,500), and lumber (up 3,600). Unfortunately, these gains were partially offset by layoffs in aerospace. Aerospace employment fell 10,900 over the year.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

The most significant reason for the improving employment climate in the state is the recovery underway in the national economy and national demand for products manufactured in this state. Fortunately the recovery in the national economy continues to perk along at a faster pace than almost anyone thought likely. The national Index of Leading Economic Indicators was up in May for its eleventh consecutive increase. Leading indicators with favorable changes included:

Weekly Initial claims for state unemployment insurance,
Manufacturers' new orders for consumer goods,
Net business formations,
Contracts and orders for plant and equipment,
Building permits,
Stock prices,
Money supply.

The building permits index is a key indicator for Washington State since lumber is the state's second largest manufacturing industry and approximately one-half of all lumber and plywood produced is used in new home construction. National permits for housing units in May were at a seasonal adjusted annual rate of 1,622,000 million units, which was 71 percent higher than the year-earlier rate of 951,000 units.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

While the overall trend in unemployment was down in May, the improvement mainly occurred in lumber and agricultural areas. In the Seattle-Everett Metropolitan Area, however, the unemployment rate rose from 10.0 to 10.2 percent between April and May because of further reductions in aerospace employment. The jobless rate in the adjoining Tacoma Metropolitan Area also edged up over the month, from 12.2 to 12.3 percent. Many Tacoma residents commute to aerospace jobs in the Seattle area.

Among the state's agricultural areas, employment generally rose much more than unemployment declined. The unemployment rate in Yakima County fell from 15.2 percent in April to 14.5 percent in May. Employment advanced 3,200, but unemployment fell only 200. Many agricultural jobs were filled by new entrants to the labor force or by residents of other states--migrant farm workers. In the Tri-Cities area, the jobless rate rose from 13.2 to 13.5 percent between April and May. Increased agricultural activity boosted employment 800, but that was not sufficient to accommodate the surge of workers looking for jobs and unemployment rose 400.

In Clallam County both the lumber and pulp-paper industries were improving in May, and the area's unemployment rate fell from 18.2 to 14.4 percent over the month. The jobless rate in Grays Harbor County fell a full percentage point because of improving lumber markets. The April rate was 14.4 percent and the May rate was 13.4 percent. April-May changes in the unemployment rates of some other lumber counties included: Lewis, 15.1 to 14.2 percent; Mason, 13.2 to 12.7 percent; Okanogan, 21.2 to 17.9 percent; and Pacific, 14.6 to 14.3 percent.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

A number of manufacturing industries posted gains between April and May, but the new jobs were not sufficient to offset losses resulting from labor disputes and further retrenchment in aerospace. The labor disputes were settled by mid-June, but 1,400 manufacturing workers were involved in strikes in May. Aerospace employment was cut an additional 1,200 in May. Because of these adverse developments, total manufacturing employment fell 1,400 from April to May.

On the positive side, lumber employment advanced 500 as demand continued strong for lumber because of recovery in the homebuilding industry. Canneries also added 500 workers in May as work on the asparagus crop was nearing its peak. Growing demand for aluminum from the automobile and construction industries and lower electric rates for surplus power from the Bonneville Power Administration encouraged aluminum plants to add 300 workers in May. Aluminum employment rose 300 in the previous month also. Chemicals employment posted a gain of 300 in May too; this increase was centered in the Tri-Cities area.

Approximately 500 of the 900 drop in nonelectrical machinery over the month resulted from a labor dispute. The remaining loss occurred because of the completion of a large contract. Over 500 of the 800 loss in other transportation equipment (rail cars, trailers, trucks) resulted from a strike also. Fabricated metals employment dropped 200 in May, but 400 workers were out on strike in that industry.

Over the year, manufacturing employment in the state was down 13,700. Aerospace, down 10,900, accounted for nearly 80 percent of the loss. A number of other industries also had lower employment than a year ago, but unlike aerospace, their losses were generally narrowing because of the improving economic climate. Some industries are now showing higher employment than in May 1982. Manufacturing industries with year-to-year gains include lumber (up 3,600), furniture (up 400), other durable goods--instruments (up 800), and chemicals (up 800).

NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

In the nonmanufacturing industries, construction employment rose 1,700 from mid-April to mid-May. Gains resulted from an expansion in home building, commercial projects and street and highway construction. While further growth is anticipated, construction employment in June will reflect the shutdown of work on WNP #3 at Satsop. Work on the nuclear power plant was terminated because of a lack of funds. The project employed 3,000 construction workers.

Trade employment posted a strong 3,500 gain in May with wholesalers adding 500 workers, and retail outlets hiring 3,000. Changes were largely seasonal in nature. The major expansion on the retail level occurred at restaurants and food stands, where mild spring weather encouraged more tourist business. Gasoline stations also added workers for the same reason. Building material and garden stores reported higher payrolls as usual for this time of the year. Food stores hired additional workers, but department stores trimmed employment; both were following normal seasonal patterns.

Civilian government employment rose 1,500 from April to May with 400 new jobs on the Federal level and an additional 1,100 on the state and local level. Most of the new government jobs were seasonal positions at parks and forests and in other outdoor-type activities.

Services employment declined slightly in May, down 300. Minor gains were reported for a number of service activities, but these were more than offset by seasonal cutbacks at firms which prepare income tax returns for individuals and businesses.

The major over-the-year gains in nonmanufacturing employment were credited to services, up 9,400, and retail trade, up 7,500. Nearly all segments in retail trade contributed to the growth. Health services was credited with the largest year-to-year increase in services.

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE 1/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	May. 1983 (Prel.)	Apr. 1983 (Rev.)	May. 1982	Apr. 1982	Change Apr. 83 to May. 83	Change May. 82 to May. 83
RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE.....	2,041.2	2,027.7	2,032.6	2,010.2	+13.5	+8.6
EMPLOYMENT.....	1,812.0	1,797.2	1,789.3	1,770.6	+14.8	+22.7
UNEMPLOYMENT.....	229.2	230.5	243.3	239.6	-1.3	-14.1
Percent of Labor Force.....	11.2	11.4	12.0	11.9	xxx	xxx

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS IN WASHINGTON STATE, PLACE OF WORK 2/

(In Thousands)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED	May. 1983 (Prel.)	Apr. 1983 (Rev.)	May. 1982	Apr. 1982	Change Apr. 83 to May. 83	Change May. 82 to May. 83
TOTAL NONAG. WAGE AND SALARY.....	1,580.2	1,575.3	1,577.0	1,572.7	+4.9	+3.2
TOTAL MANUFACTURING.....	276.6	278.0	290.3	291.1	-1.4	-13.7
Durable Goods.....	192.2	194.5	205.6	207.8	-2.3	-13.4
Lumber & Wood Products.....	42.1	41.6	38.5	5/37.8	+0.5	+3.6
Furniture & Fixtures.....	3.2	3.1	2.8	2.9	+0.1	+0.4
Stone, Clay, & Glass Prod.....	5.9	5.8	6.0	6.0	+0.1	-0.1
Primary Metal Industries.....	12.7	12.5	5/14.1	5/14.5	+0.2	-1.4
Aluminum Prod. & Processing...	8.4	8.1	8.9	9.0	+0.3	-0.5
Fabricated Metal Products.....	5/8.9	5/9.1	10.0	10.0	-0.2	-1.1
Machinery.....	5/25.1	5/26.1	27.8	28.4	-1.0	-2.7
Machinery exc. Electrical.....	5/14.8	5/15.7	17.2	17.7	-0.9	-2.4
Electrical & Electronic Equip.	10.3	10.4	10.6	10.7	-0.1	-0.3
Transportation Equipment.....	5/81.3	83.3	94.2	95.8	-2.0	-12.9
Aerospace.....	65.2	66.4	76.1	77.1	-1.2	-10.9
Other Transp. Equipment.....	5/16.1	16.9	18.1	18.7	-0.8	-2.0
Other Durable Goods 3/.....	13.0	13.0	12.2	12.4	0.0	+0.8
Nondurable Goods.....	84.4	83.5	84.7	83.3	+0.9	-0.3
Food & Kindred Products.....	30.5	30.0	31.4	30.0	+0.5	-0.9
Canned & Preserved Foods.....	11.2	10.7	11.3	10.0	+0.5	-0.1
Apparel & Other Text. Prod.....	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.5	+0.1	+0.1
Paper & Allied Products.....	15.6	15.7	15.8	15.9	-0.1	-0.2
Printing & Publishing.....	15.7	15.6	15.9	15.9	+0.1	-0.2
Chemicals & Allied Products....	10.2	9.9	9.4	9.3	+0.3	+0.8
Other Nondurable Goods 4/.....	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.7	0.0	+0.1
MINING & QUARRYING.....	2.8	2.9	3.2	3.1	-0.1	-0.4
CONSTRUCTION.....	77.7	76.0	76.7	75.9	+1.7	+1.0
TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES.....	88.6	88.7	5/89.1	5/88.9	-0.1	-0.5
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE.....	389.9	386.4	384.7	381.4	+3.5	+5.2
Wholesale Trade.....	98.1	97.6	100.4	100.5	+0.5	-2.3
Retail Trade.....	291.8	288.8	284.3	280.9	+3.0	+7.5
FIN., INS., & REAL ESTATE.....	91.3	91.2	90.8	90.6	+0.1	+0.5
SERVICES.....	325.8	326.1	5/316.4	5/316.7	-0.3	+9.4
GOVERNMENT.....	327.5	326.0	325.8	325.0	+1.5	+1.7
Federal.....	67.3	66.9	66.0	65.5	+0.4	+1.3
State & Local.....	260.2	259.1	259.8	259.5	+1.1	+0.4
Education.....	140.3	139.7	141.4	141.4	+0.6	-1.1
(WORKERS IN LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISPUTES).....	1.4	0.3	0.4	1.7	+1.1	+1.0

1/ These data are alternative estimates which are more nearly comparable to data released in previous years than are official Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates developed for Federal program purposes.

2/ Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during pay period including the 12th of the month.

3/ Includes instruments and related products and miscellaneous manufacturing activities.

4/ Includes textile mill products, rubber and miscellaneous plastics products, petroleum refining and related products, and leather products.

5/ Excludes workers involved in labor-management disputes.

Washington State
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY DEPARTMENT

RESIDENT LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE AND LABOR MARKET AREAS

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Date June 28, 1983

Benchmark 1982

John Spellman, Governor
Norward J. Brooks, Commissioner

	May 1983 Preliminary 3/				April 1983 Revised				May 1982 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemp. Rate
Washington State Total 1/	2,041,200	1,812,000	229,200	11.2	2,027,700	1,797,200	230,500	11.4	2,032,600	1,789,300	243,300	12.0
Bellingham SMSA	50,000	44,100	5,900	11.8	49,900	43,600	6,300	12.6	49,300	43,200	6,100	12.4
Bremerton SMSA	64,500	59,400	5,100	7.9	64,200	59,200	5,000	7.8	61,700	56,300	5,400	8.8
Olympia SMSA	58,100	51,700	6,400	11.0	58,100	51,600	6,500	11.2	56,100	49,200	6,900	12.3
Seattle-Everett SMSA	893,300	802,200	91,100	10.2	885,700	800,900	88,800	10.0	885,100	794,400	90,700	10.2
King County	700,500	633,900	66,600	9.5	699,100	632,900	66,200	9.5	694,500	627,800	66,700	9.6
Spokane SMSA	153,600	137,700	15,900	10.4	152,500	136,400	16,100	10.6	153,800	135,400	18,400	12.0
Tacoma SMSA	190,400	166,900	23,500	12.3	189,600	166,500	23,100	12.2	185,800	162,800	23,000	12.4
Tri-Cities Area 2/	80,000	69,200	10,800	13.5	78,800	68,400	10,400	13.2	85,200	72,900	12,300	14.4
Yakima SMSA	88,300	75,500	12,800	14.5	85,300	72,300	13,000	15.2	85,900	71,800	14,100	16.4
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	37,230	31,160	6,070	16.3	37,480	31,340	6,140	16.4	37,290	30,680	6,610	17.7
Adams	8,220	7,250	970	11.8	7,660	6,940	720	9.4	7,730	7,060	670	8.7
Asotin	8,270	7,310	960	11.6	8,170	7,120	1,050	12.9	8,150	7,010	1,140	14.0
Clallam	19,410	16,620	2,790	14.4	20,030	16,390	3,640	18.2	19,980	16,630	3,350	16.8
Clark	93,290	84,510	8,780	9.4	93,180	84,120	9,060	9.7	96,010	84,390	11,620	12.1
Columbia	3,640	3,370	270	7.4	3,070	2,730	340	11.1	3,530	3,290	240	6.8
Cowlitz	33,040	28,030	5,010	15.2	33,130	28,240	4,890	14.8	33,190	28,020	5,170	15.6
Ferry	2,540	2,030	510	20.1	2,430	1,900	530	21.8	2,660	1,940	720	27.1
Garfield	1,210	1,110	100	8.3	1,160	1,070	90	7.8	1,210	1,120	90	7.4
Grant	25,850	22,830	3,020	11.7	24,610	21,660	2,950	12.0	24,790	21,720	3,070	12.4
Grays Harbor	31,210	27,020	4,190	13.4	31,210	26,710	4,500	14.4	34,410	29,370	5,040	14.6
Island	15,100	13,600	1,500	9.9	14,810	13,350	1,460	9.9	14,260	12,950	1,310	9.2
Jefferson	6,760	6,110	650	9.6	6,560	5,870	690	10.5	6,470	5,690	780	12.1
Kittitas	10,490	9,030	1,460	13.9	10,630	8,910	1,720	16.2	10,330	8,670	1,660	16.1
Klickitat	7,190	6,090	1,100	15.3	7,130	5,740	1,390	19.5	7,630	5,910	1,720	22.5
Lewis	24,700	21,200	3,500	14.2	24,670	20,950	3,720	15.1	25,470	20,830	4,640	18.2
Lincoln	4,370	4,160	210	4.8	4,150	3,930	220	5.3	4,510	4,210	300	6.7
Mason	10,720	9,360	1,360	12.7	10,830	9,400	1,430	13.2	10,860	9,320	1,540	14.2
Okanogan	15,670	12,870	2,800	17.9	15,830	12,480	3,350	21.2	15,940	12,340	3,600	22.6
Pacific	7,340	6,290	1,050	14.3	7,210	6,160	1,050	14.6	7,690	6,450	1,240	16.1
Pend Oreille	3,110	2,380	730	23.5	3,130	2,280	850	27.2	3,390	2,460	930	27.4
San Juan	3,510	3,190	320	9.1	3,390	3,050	340	10.0	3,270	2,990	280	8.6
Skagit	32,040	27,120	4,920	15.4	31,590	26,500	5,090	16.1	31,950	27,260	4,690	14.7
Skamania	2,910	2,360	550	18.9	2,990	2,340	650	21.7	3,060	2,280	780	25.5
Stevens	11,530	9,390	2,140	18.6	11,420	9,040	2,380	20.8	12,140	9,660	2,480	20.4
Wahkiakum	1,440	1,340	100	6.9	1,440	1,330	110	7.6	1,440	1,350	90	6.3
Walla Walla	26,230	24,210	2,020	7.7	25,660	23,220	2,440	9.5	26,440	24,210	2,230	8.4
Whitman	15,920	15,330	590	3.7	16,110	15,540	570	3.5	16,220	15,600	620	3.8

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.
2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.
3/ Estimates provided here are for use as an economic time-series. Official Bureau of Labor Statistics' estimates, which must be used for federal program purposes, are available upon request.

Research and Analysis Branch

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT
ESTIMATES FOR FEDERAL PROGRAM PURPOSES 1/

July 6, 1983
Benchmark 1982

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	May 1983 Preliminary 3/				April 1983 Revised			
	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment Rate
Washington State To.al 1/	2,029,000	1,803,800	225,200	11.1	2,038,100	1,807,200	230,900	11.3
Bellingham SMSA	49,700	43,900	5,800	11.7	50,100	43,800	6,300	12.6
Bremerton SMSA	64,100	59,100	5,000	7.8	64,500	59,500	5,000	7.8
Olympia SMSA	57,700	51,400	6,300	10.9	58,400	51,900	6,500	11.1
Seattle-Everett SMSA	888,100	798,600	89,500	10.1	894,200	805,300	88,900	9.9
King County	696,600	631,100	65,500	9.4	702,700	636,400	66,300	9.4
Spokane SMSA	152,800	137,100	15,700	10.3	153,300	137,200	16,100	10.5
Tacoma SMSA	189,300	166,200	23,100	12.2	190,600	167,500	23,100	12.1
Tri-Cities Area 2/	79,500	68,900	10,600	13.3	79,200	68,800	10,400	13.1
Yakima SMSA	87,800	75,200	12,600	14.4	85,700	72,700	13,000	15.2
Wenatchee Labor Area 2/	36,980	31,020	5,960	16.1	37,670	31,520	6,150	16.3
Adams	8,170	7,220	950	11.6	7,700	6,980	720	9.4
Asotin	8,230	7,280	950	11.5	8,210	7,160	1,050	12.8
Clallam	19,280	16,540	2,740	14.2	20,130	16,480	3,650	18.1
Clark	92,760	84,130	8,630	9.3	93,670	84,590	9,080	9.7
Columbia	3,620	3,350	270	7.5	3,080	2,740	340	11.0
Cowlitz	32,820	27,900	4,920	15.0	33,290	28,400	4,890	14.7
Ferry	2,520	2,020	500	19.8	2,440	1,910	530	21.7
Garfield	1,210	1,110	100	8.3	1,160	1,070	90	7.8
Grant	25,690	22,730	2,960	11.5	24,730	21,780	2,950	11.9
Grays Harbor	31,020	26,900	4,120	13.3	31,370	26,860	4,510	14.4
Island	15,010	13,540	1,470	9.8	14,890	13,420	1,470	9.9
Jefferson	6,720	6,080	640	9.5	6,590	5,900	690	10.5
Kittitas	10,420	8,990	1,430	13.7	10,680	8,960	1,720	16.1
Klickitat	7,150	6,060	1,090	15.2	7,170	5,770	1,400	19.5
Lewis	24,540	21,100	3,440	14.0	24,800	21,070	3,730	15.0
Lincoln	4,350	4,140	210	4.8	4,170	3,950	220	5.3
Mason	10,650	9,320	1,330	12.5	10,880	9,450	1,430	13.1
Okanogan	15,570	12,820	2,750	17.7	15,900	12,550	3,350	21.1
Pacific	7,300	6,270	1,030	14.1	7,250	6,200	1,050	14.5
Pend Oreille	3,090	2,370	720	23.3	3,140	2,290	850	27.1
San Juan	3,490	3,180	310	8.9	3,400	3,060	340	10.0
Skagit	31,830	27,000	4,830	15.2	31,750	26,650	5,100	16.1
Skamania	2,890	2,350	540	18.7	3,000	2,350	650	21.7
Stevens	11,440	9,340	2,100	18.4	11,480	9,090	2,390	20.8
Wahkiakum	1,430	1,330	100	7.0	1,450	1,340	110	7.6
Walla Walla	26,090	24,100	1,990	7.6	25,800	23,350	2,450	9.5
Whitman	15,840	15,260	580	3.7	16,200	15,630	570	3.5

1/ Detail may not add due to rounding.

2/ The Tri-Cities area includes all of Benton and Franklin counties. The Wenatchee Labor Area includes all of Chelan and Douglas counties.

3/ Estimates for the state and labor market areas are not strictly comparable with those for prior years because the methodology used to develop current year estimates differs from that used in developing final estimates.

ESTIMATED AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING AND OF NONSUPERVISORY WORKERS IN NONMANUFACTURING ACTIVITIES, STATE OF WASHINGTON

	Apr. 1983 Prod. or Nonsup. Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Apr. 1983	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982	Apr. 1983	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982	Apr. 1983	Mar. 1983	Apr. 1982
TOTAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES	175,900	$439.30	$443.89	$411.42	38.3	38.7	37.3	$11.47	$11.47	$11.03
Lumber & wood products	38,400	436.22	428.27	344.41	38.4	37.8	32.4	11.36	11.33	10.63
Primary metal industries	9,600	543.71	560.95	502.98	41.6	42.4	40.4	13.07	13.23	12.45
Fabricated metal products	6,600	498.30	502.14	472.41	39.8	40.3	39.4	12.52	12.46	11.99
Machinery 1/	15,300	361.37	360.58	379.66	38.2	38.4	38.9	9.46	9.39	9.76
Transportation equipment	36,700	529.85	530.00	508.99	39.6	39.7	40.3	13.38	13.35	12.63
Food & kindred products	22,200	326.11	349.23	341.87	34.4	36.8	36.8	9.48	9.49	9.29
Chemicals & allied products	4,800	499.80	499.51	469.86	42.0	41.8	41.0	11.90	11.95	11.46
SELECTED NONMANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES										
Construction	56,700	666.36	665.02	617.40	36.0	36.3	35.3	18.51	18.32	17.49
Wholesale and retail trade	235,500	318.89	311.78	307.92	34.4	34.0	34.1	9.27	9.17	9.03

1/ Data prior to January 1983 is no longer comparable due to a break in the series.

OVER 14.6
12.5 - 14.6
9.5 - 12.4
UNDER 9.5

MAY UNEMPLOYMENT RATES